



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, the rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, given by God and enumerated in our Declaration of Independence, secured by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and enjoyed by every citizen of the United States are a direct result of the blood shed and continued vigilance given by the members of the United States Armed Forces throughout the history of our great Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the sacrifices made by the members of the United States Armed Forces and the family members that support them have preserved the liberties that have enriched this Nation and Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, since the birth of the Nation, Virginians have had a proud history of service in the United States Armed Forces in both times of peace and times of war, expertly displayed this year through operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 200,000 Virginians are currently serving on active duty in the National Guard or other reserve components or as civilian federal defense contractors employed at installations throughout the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 830,000 veterans chose to make the Commonwealth of Virginia their home after their service; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Virginia wish to recognize, honor, and show appreciation for all service members, past and present, and their families, and to set aside the month of May to pay tribute to the sacrifices and service of the intrepid men and women of our armed forces;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize May 2011, as **MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth